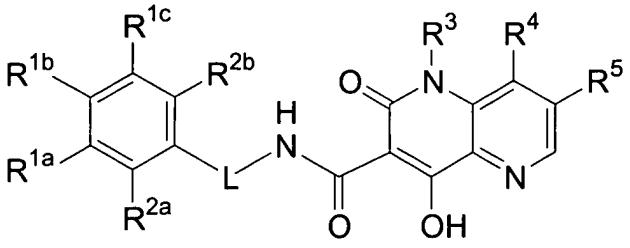
IN THE CLAIMS

The listing of the claims which follows replaces any and all prior versions and/or listings of the claims in the application.

1. (original) A compound of Formula (I):



(I),

wherein L is a linker connecting the carbon atom of the phenyl ring to the nitrogen of the -NH- moiety, wherein L is

(i) a single bond,

(ii) -(C_{1-6} alkyl)-, which is optionally substituted with -C(=O)N(R^aR^b),

(iii) -(C_{0-3} alkyl)-C=C-(C_{1-3} alkyl)-,

(iv) -(C_{0-3} alkyl)—C≡C— (C_{1-3} alkyl)-, or

(v) -(C_{0-6} alkyl)-(C_{3-6} cycloalkyl)-(C_{0-6} alkyl)-;

R^{1a}, R^{1b}, and R^{1c} are each independently -H, halogen, -C_{1-6} alkyl, or -C_{1-6} haloalkyl;

R^{2a} and R^{2b} are each independently:

(1) -H,

(2) -C_{1-6} alkyl, optionally substituted with one or more substituents each of which is independently halogen, -OH, -O-C_{1-6} alkyl, -O-C_{1-6} haloalkyl, -CN, -NO_2, -N(R^aR^b), -C(=O)N(R^aR^b), -C(=O)R^a, -CO_2R^a, -OCO_2R^a, -$S(O)_nR^a$, -SO_2N(R^aR^b), -N(R^a)C(=O)R^b, -N(R^a)CO_2R^b, -N(R^a)SO_2R^b, or -N(R^a)SO_2N(R^aR^b),

(3) -C_{1-6} alkyl substituted with one substituent which is -C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl, wherein:

(a) the cycloalkyl is optionally substituted with one or more substituents each of which is independently halogen, -OH, -C_{1-6} alkyl, -C_{1-6} alkyl-O-C_{1-6} alkyl, -C_{1-6} haloalkyl, -O-C_{1-6} alkyl, -O-C_{1-6} haloalkyl, or phenyl;

(b) the aryl is an aromatic carbocyclic ring or an aromatic carbocyclic fused ring system, wherein the aryl is optionally substituted with one or more substituents each of which is independently halogen, -OH, -C_{1-6} alkyl, -C_{1-6} alkyl-O-C_{1-6} alkyl, -C_{1-6} haloalkyl, -O-C_{1-6} alkyl, -O-C_{1-6} haloalkyl, -CN, -NO_2, -N(R^aR^b), -C_{1-6} alkyl-N(R^aR^b), -C(=O)N(R^aR^b), -C_{1-6} alkyl-C(=O)N(R^aR^b), -C(=O)R^a, -C_{1-6} alkyl-C(=O)R^a, -CO_2R^a, -C_{1-6} alkyl-CO_2R^a, -OCO_2R^a, -C_{1-6} alkyl-OCO_2R^a, -S(O)$_n$$R^a$, -$C_{1-6}$ alkyl-S(O)$_n$$R^a$, -$SO_2$N($R^aR^b$), -$C_{1-6}$ alkyl-SO_2N(R^aR^b), -N(R^a)SO_2R^b, -C_{1-6} alkyl-N(R^a)SO_2R^b, -N(R^a)C(=O)R^b, -C_{1-6} alkyl-N(R^a)C(=O)R^b, -N(R^a)CO_2R^b, -C_{1-6} alkyl-N(R^a)CO_2R^b, -N(R^a)SO_2N(R^aR^b), -C_{1-6} alkyl-N(R^a)SO_2N(R^aR^b), phenyl, -C_{1-6} alkyl-phenyl, -O-phenyl, -C_{1-6} alkyl-O-phenyl, HetA, or -C_{1-6} alkyl-HetA; wherein each HetA is a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, wherein the heteroaromatic ring is optionally fused with a benzene ring; and wherein each HetA is optionally substituted with one or more substituents each of which is independently -C_{1-6} alkyl, -C_{1-6} haloalkyl, -O-C_{1-6} alkyl, -O-C_{1-6} haloalkyl, oxo, or -CO_2R^a; and

(c) the heteroaryl is a 5- or 6-membered heteraromatic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms or a 9- or 10-membered bicyclic heteroaromatic ring system containing from 1 to 6 heteroatoms, wherein the heteroatoms in the heteroaryl are independently selected from N, O and S; and wherein the heteroaryl is optionally substituted with one or more substituents each of which is independently halogen, -OH, -C_{1-6} alkyl, -C_{1-6} alkyl-O-C_{1-6} alkyl, -C_{1-6} haloalkyl, -O-C_{1-6} alkyl, -O-C_{1-6} haloalkyl, -N(R^aR^b), -C_{1-6} alkyl-N(R^aR^b), -C(=O)N(R^aR^b), -C_{1-6} alkyl-C(=O)N(R^aR^b), -C(=O)R^a, -C_{1-6} alkyl-C(=O)R^a, -CO_2R^a, -C_{1-6} alkyl-CO_2R^a, -OCO_2R^a, -C_{1-6} alkyl-OCO_2R^a, -S(O)$_n$$R^a$, -$C_{1-6}$ alkyl-S(O)$_n$$R^a$, -$SO_2$N($R^aR^b$), -$C_{1-6}$ alkyl-SO_2N(R^aR^b), -N(R^a)SO_2R^b, -C_{1-6} alkyl-N(R^a)SO_2R^b, -N(R^a)C(=O)R^b, -C_{1-6} alkyl-N(R^a)C(=O)R^b, -N(R^a)CO_2R^b, -C_{1-6} alkyl-N(R^a)CO_2R^b, phenyl, -C_{1-6} alkyl-phenyl, or oxo;

(4) -O-C_{1-6} alkyl, optionally substituted with one or more substituents each of which is independently halogen, -OH, -O-C_{1-6} alkyl, -O-C_{1-6} haloalkyl, -S(O)$_n$$R^a$, -N($R^a$)-$CO_2R^b$, or -C(=O)N($R^aR^b$),

(5) -OH,

(6) halo,

(7) -NO_2,

(8) -CN,

(9) $-C(=O)R^a$,
(10) $-CO_2R^a$,
(11) $-S(O)_nR^a$,
(12) $-SO_2N(R^aR^b)$,
(13) $-N(R^aR^b)$,
(14) $-C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$,
(15) $-N(R^a)SO_2R^b$,
(16) $-OC(=O)N(R^aR^b)$,
(17) $-N(R^a)C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$,
(18) $-N(R^a)$-C_{1-6} alkyl-$C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$,
(19) $-N(R^a)-C(=O)$-C_{1-6} alkyl-$N(R^aR^b)$,
(20) $-N(R^a)C(=O)-C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$,
(21) $-OCO_2R^a$,
(22) $-N(R^a)-SO_2N(R^aR^b)$,
(23) $-N(R^a)-SO_2$-C_{1-6} alkyl-$N(R^aR^b)$,
(24) $-N(R^a)C(=O)R^b$,
(25) $-N(R^a)CO_2R^b$,
(26) -S-C_{1-6} alkyl-$C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, or
(27) $-N(SO_2R^a)$-C_{1-6} alkyl-$C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$;

R^3 is

(1) -H,
(2) -C_{1-6} alkyl, optionally substituted with one or more substituents each of which is independently halogen, -OH, -O-C_{1-6} alkyl, -O-C_{1-6} haloalkyl, -CN, $-NO_2$, $-N(R^aR^b)$, $-C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, $-OC(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)$-C_{1-6} alkyl-$C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)-C(=O)$-C_{1-6} alkyl-$N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)C(=O)-C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, $-C(=O)R^a$, $-CO_2R^a$, $-OCO_2R^a$, $-S(O)_nR^a$, $-SO_2N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)-SO_2N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)-SO_2$-C_{1-6} alkyl-$N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)C(=O)R^b$, $-N(R^a)CO_2R^b$, $-N(R^a)SO_2R^b$, or -G-C_{1-6} alkyl-$C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$ wherein G is O or S or $N(SO_2R^a)$,

with the proviso that none of the following substituents is attached to the carbon in the -C_{1-6} alkyl group that is attached to the ring nitrogen: -OH, -O-C_{1-6} alkyl, -O-C_{1-6} haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $-N(R^aR^b)$, $-OC(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)$-C_{1-6} alkyl-$C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)-C(=O)$-C_{1-6} alkyl-$N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)C(=O)-C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, $-OCO_2R^a$, $-N(R^a)-SO_2N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)-SO_2$-C_{1-6} alkyl-$N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)C(=O)R^b$,

$-N(R^a)CO_2R^b$, $-N(R^a)SO_2R^b$, or -G-C_{1-6} alkyl-$C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$ wherein G is O or $N(SO_2R^a)$,

(3) $-C_{1-6}$ alkyl substituted with one of:

(i) $-R^k$,
(ii) $-S(O)_n-R^k$,
(iii) $-S(O)_n-C_{1-6}$ alkyl-R^k,
(iv) $-C(=O)-R^k$,
(v) $-C(=O)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl-R^k,
(vi) $-C(=O)N(R^a)-R^k$, or
(vii) $-C(=O)N(R^a)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl-R^k,

(4) $-C_{2-6}$ alkyl substituted with one of:

(i) $-O-R^k$,
(ii) $-O-C_{1-6}$ alkyl-R^k,
(iii) $-N(R^a)-R^k$,
(iv) $-N(R^a)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl-R^k,
(v) $-N(R^a)C(=O)-R^k$,
(vi) $-N(R^a)C(=O)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl-R^k,

with the proviso that the substituent is not attached to the carbon in the $-C_{2-6}$ alkyl group that is attached to the ring nitrogen,

(5) $-S(O)_nR^a$,
(6) $-SO_2N(R^aR^b)$,
(7) $-C_{2-6}$ alkenyl, optionally substituted with one substituent which is $-C(=O)-N(R^aR^b)$ or $-R^k$,
(8) $-C_{2-5}$ alkynyl, optionally substituted with one substituent which is $-CH_2N(R^aR^b)$, $-CH_2OR^a$, or $-R^k$,
(9) $-R^k$,
(10) $-S(O)_n-C_{1-6}$ alkyl-R^k,
(11) $-N(R^a)C(=O)-R^k$, or
(12) $-N(R^a)C(=O)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl-R^k;

each of R^4 and R^5 is independently

(1) -H,
(2) $-C_{1-6}$ alkyl, optionally substituted with one or more substituents each of which is independently halogen, -OH, -O-C_{1-6} alkyl, -O-C_{1-6} haloalkyl, -CN, $-NO_2$, $-N(R^aR^b)$, $-C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, $-OC(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl-$C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)-C(=O)-C_{1-6}$ alkyl-$N(R^aR^b)$,

$-N(R^a)C(=O)-C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, $-C(=O)R^a$, $-CO_2R^a$, $-OCO_2R^a$, $-S(O)_nR^a$, $-SO_2N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)-SO_2N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)-SO_2-C_{1-6}$ alkyl-$N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)C(=O)R^b$, $-N(R^a)CO_2R^b$, $-N(R^a)SO_2R^b$, or -G-C_{1-6} alkyl-$C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$ wherein G is O or S or $N(SO_2R^a)$,

(3) $-SO_2N(R^aR^b)$, or

(4) $-C_{1-6}$ alkyl-R^m;

each R^a and R^b is independently -H, $-C_{1-6}$ alkyl, or $-C_{3-8}$ cycloalkyl;

R^k is a carbocycle or a heterocycle;

each R^m is independently a carbocycle or a heterocycle;

each carbocycle is independently (i) a C_3 to C_8 monocyclic, saturated or unsaturated ring, (ii) a C_7 to C_{12} bicyclic ring system, or (iii) a C_{11} to C_{16} tricyclic ring system, wherein each ring in (ii) or (iii) is independent of or fused to the other ring or rings and each ring is saturated or unsaturated; wherein the carbocycle is optionally substituted with one or more substituents each of which is independently

(1) halogen,

(2) -OH,

(3) $-C_{1-6}$ alkyl, optionally substituted with one or more substituents each of which is independently -OH, -O-C_{1-6} alkyl, -O-C_{1-6} haloalkyl, -CN, $-NO_2$, $-N(R^aR^b)$, $-C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, $-C(=O)R^a$, $-CO_2R^a$, $-OCO_2R^a$, $-S(O)_nR^a$, $-SO_2N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)SO_2R^b$, $-N(R^a)C(=O)R^b$, $-N(R^a)CO_2R^b$, $-N(R^a)SO_2R^b$, phenyl, -O-phenyl, or HetB,

(4) $-C_{1-6}$ haloalkyl,

(5) -O-C_{1-6} alkyl,

(6) -O-C_{1-6} haloalkyl,

(7) -CN,

(8) $-NO_2$,

(9) $-N(R^aR^b)$,

(10) $-C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$,

(11) $-C(=O)R^a$,

(12) $-CO_2R^a$,

(13) $-OCO_2R^a$,

(14) $-S(O)_nR^a$,

(15) $-N(R^a)SO_2R^b$,
(16) $-SO_2N(R^aR^b)$,
(17) $-N(R^a)C(=O)R^b$,
(18) $-N(R^a)CO_2R^b$,
(19) phenyl,
(20) -O-phenyl, or
(21) HetB,

wherein each HetB is independently a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, wherein the heteroaromatic ring is optionally fused with a benzene ring; and wherein each HetB is optionally substituted with one or more substituents each of which is independently $-C_{1-6}$ alkyl, $-C_{1-6}$ haloalkyl, $-O-C_{1-6}$ alkyl, $-O-C_{1-6}$ haloalkyl, oxo, or $-CO_2R^a$;

each heterocycle is independently (i) a 4- to 8-membered, saturated or unsaturated monocyclic ring, (ii) a 7- to 12-membered bicyclic ring system, or (iii) an 11 to 16-membered tricyclic ring system; wherein each ring in (ii) or (iii) is independent of or fused to the other ring or rings and each ring is saturated or unsaturated; the monocyclic ring, bicyclic ring system, or tricyclic ring system contains from 1 to 6 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S; and wherein any one or more of the nitrogen and sulfur heteroatoms is optionally oxidized, and any one or more of the nitrogen heteroatoms is optionally quaternized; wherein the heterocycle is optionally substituted with one or more substituents each of which is independently

(1) halogen,
(2) -OH,
(3) $-C_{1-6}$ alkyl, optionally substituted with one or more substituents each of which is independently -OH, $-O-C_{1-6}$ alkyl, -CN, $-NO_2$, $-N(R^aR^b)$, $-C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, $-C(=O)R^a$, $-CO_2R^a$, $-S(O)_nR^a$, $-N(R^a)SO_2R^b$, $-SO_2N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)C(=O)R^b$, $-N(R^a)CO_2R^b$, phenyl, -O-phenyl, or HetC,
(4) $-C_{1-6}$ haloalkyl,
(5) $-O-C_{1-6}$ alkyl,
(6) $-O-C_{1-6}$ haloalkyl,
(7) -CN,
(8) $-NO_2$,
(9) $-N(R^aR^b)$,
(10) $-C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$,
(11) $-C(=O)R^a$,

(12) $-CO_2R^a$,
(13) $-OCO_2R^a$,
(14) $-S(O)_nR^a$,
(15) $-N(R^a)SO_2R^b$,
(16) $-SO_2N(R^aR^b)$,
(17) $-N(R^a)C(=O)R^b$,
(18) $-N(R^a)CO_2R^b$,
(19) phenyl,
(20) -O-phenyl,
(21) HetC, or
(22) oxo;

wherein each HetC is independently a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, wherein the heteroaromatic ring is optionally fused with a benzene ring; and wherein each HetC is optionally substituted with one or more substituents each of which is independently $-C_{1-6}$ alkyl, $-C_{1-6}$ haloalkyl, $-O-C_{1-6}$ alkyl, $-O-C_{1-6}$ haloalkyl, oxo, or $-CO_2R^a$; and

each n is independently an integer equal to 0, 1 or 2;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^{1a} and R^{1c} are both -H; and R^{1b} is fluoro;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. (original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^{2a} and R^{2b} are each independently:

(1) -H,
(2) $-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently -OH, $-O-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $-O-CF_3$, -CN, $-NO_2$, $-N(R^aR^b)$, $-C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, $-C(=O)R^a$, $-CO_2R^a$, $-OCO_2R^a$, $-S(O)_nR^a$, $-SO_2N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)C(=O)R^b$, $-N(R^a)CO_2R^b$, or $-N(R^a)SO_2R^b$,
(3) $-CF_3$,
(4) $-C_{1-4}$ alkyl substituted with one of $-C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl, wherein:

the cycloalkyl is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently fluoro, chloro, bromo, -OH, -C_{1-4} alkyl, -$(CH_2)_{1-2}$-O-C_{1-4} alkyl, -CF_3, -O-C_{1-4} alkyl, -OCF_3, or phenyl;

the aryl is phenyl, naphthyl, anthryl, or phenanthryl; wherein the aryl is optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each of which is independently fluoro, chloro, bromo, -OH, -C_{1-4} alkyl, -$(CH_2)_{1-2}$-O-C_{1-4} alkyl, -CF_3, -O-C_{1-4} alkyl, -OCF_3, -CN, -NO_2, -$N(R^aR^b)$, -C_{1-4} alkyl-$N(R^aR^b)$, -$C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, -C_{1-4} alkyl-$C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, -$C(=O)R^a$, -C_{1-4} alkyl-$C(=O)R^a$, -CO_2R^a, -C_{1-4} alkyl-CO_2R^a, -OCO_2R^a, -C_{1-4} alkyl-OCO_2R^a, -$S(O)_nR^a$, -C_{1-4} alkyl-$S(O)_nR^a$, -$SO_2N(R^aR^b)$, -C_{1-4} alkyl-$SO_2N(R^aR^b)$, -$N(R^a)SO_2R^b$, -C_{1-4} alkyl-$N(R^a)SO_2R^b$, -$N(R^a)C(=O)R^b$, -C_{1-4} alkyl-$N(R^a)C(=O)R^b$, -$N(R^a)CO_2R^b$, -C_{1-4} alkyl-$N(R^a)CO_2R^b$, -$N(R^a)SO_2N(R^aR^b)$, -C_{1-4} alkyl-$N(R^a)SO_2N(R^aR^b)$, phenyl, -C_{1-4} alkyl-phenyl, -O-phenyl, -C_{1-4} alkyl-O-phenyl, HetA, or -C_{1-4} alkyl-HetA; wherein each HetA is a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, wherein the heteroaromatic ring is optionally fused with a benzene ring; and wherein each HetA is optionally substituted with from 1 to 4 substituents each of which is independently -C_{1-4} alkyl, -CF_3, -O-C_{1-4} alkyl, -OCF_3, oxo, or -CO_2R^a; and

the heteroaryl is a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S; wherein the heteroaryl is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently fluoro, chloro, bromo, -OH, -C_{1-4} alkyl, -$(CH_2)_{1-2}$-O-C_{1-4} alkyl, -CF_3, -O-C_{1-4} alkyl, -OCF_3, -$N(R^aR^b)$, -C_{1-4} alkyl-$N(R^aR^b)$, -$C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, -C_{1-4} alkyl-$C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, -$C(=O)R^a$, -C_{1-4} alkyl-$C(=O)R^a$, -CO_2R^a, -C_{1-4} alkyl-CO_2R^a, -OCO_2R^a, -C_{1-4} alkyl-OCO_2R^a, -$S(O)_nR^a$, -$SO_2N(R^aR^b)$, -C_{1-4} alkyl-$S(O)_nR^a$, -$SO_2N(R^aR^b)$, -$N(R^a)SO_2R^b$, -C_{1-4} alkyl-$N(R^a)SO_2R^b$, -$N(R^a)C(=O)R^b$, -C_{1-4} alkyl-$N(R^a)C(=O)R^b$, -$N(R^a)CO_2R^b$, -C_{1-4} alkyl-$N(R^a)CO_2R^b$, phenyl, -C_{1-4} alkyl-phenyl, or oxo;

(5) -O-C_{1-6} alkyl, optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently -OH, -O-C_{1-4} alkyl, -OCF_3, -$S(O)_nR^a$, or -NH-CO_2R^a, or -$C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$,

(6) -OCF_3,

(7) -OH,

(8) fluoro, chloro, or bromo,

(9) -NO_2,

(10) -CN,
(11) $-C(=O)R^a$,
(12) $-CO_2R^a$,
(13) $-S(O)_nR^a$,
(14) $-SO_2N(R^aR^b)$,
(15) $-N(R^aR^b)$,
(16) $-C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$,
(17) $-N(R^a)SO_2R^b$, or
(18) $-N(R^a)C(=O)R^b$;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. (original) The compound according to claim 3, wherein R^{2a} and R^{2b} are each independently:

(1) -H,
(2) $-C_{1-4}$ alkyl,
(3) $-C_{1-2}$ alkyl substituted with one substituent which is -OH, OCH_3, -CN, $-N(R^aR^b)$, $-C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, $-C(=O)R^a$, $-CO_2R^a$, $-SR^a$, $-SO_2R^a$, $-SO_2N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)C(=O)R^b$, $-N(R^a)CO_2R^b$, or $-N(R^a)SO_2R^b$,
(4) $-CF_3$,
(5) $-CH_2$-cyclopropyl,
(6) $-CH_2$-phenyl, wherein the phenyl is optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each of which is independently fluoro, chloro, bromo, $-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $-CH_2OCH_3$, $-CF_3$, $-O-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $-OCF_3$, -CN, $-N(R^aR^b)$, $-C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, $-C(=O)R^a$, $-CO_2R^a$, or $-S(O)_nR^a$;
(7) $-CH_2$-heteroaryl, wherein the heteroaryl is pyridyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, thienyl, furanyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, oxazolyl, isooxazolyl, oxadiazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, or thiadiazolyl; and wherein the heteroaryl is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each of which is independently fluoro, chloro, bromo, $-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $-O-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, or oxo,
(8) $-O-C_{1-4}$ alkyl,
(9) $-OCF_3$,
(10) -OH
(11) fluoro, chloro, or bromo,
(12) $-NO_2$,

(13) -CN,
(14) -C(=O)R^a,
(15) -CO_2R^a,
(16) -$S(O)_nR^a$,
(17) -$SO_2N(R^aR^b)$,
(18) -$N(R^aR^b)$,
(19) -$C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$,
(20) -$N(R^a)SO_2R^b$, or
(21) -$N(R^a)C(=O)R^b$;

each R^a and R^b is independently -H or -C_{1-4} alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. (original) The compound according to claim 4, wherein R^{2a} and R^{2b} are each independently:

(1) -H,
(2) -C_{1-4} alkyl,
(3) -CF_3,
(4) fluoro, chloro, or bromo,
(5) -SO_2-C_{1-4} alkyl,
(6) -S-C_{1-4} alkyl,
(7) -$SO_2N(-C_{1-4}\text{ alkyl})_2$,
(8) -$C(=O)N(-C_{1-4}\text{ alkyl})_2$,
(9) -$NHSO_2$-C_{1-4} alkyl,
(10) -$N(-C_{1-4}\text{ alkyl})SO_2$-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl,
(11) -NHC(=O)-C_{1-4} alkyl,
(12) -$N(-C_{1-4}\text{ alkyl})C(=O)$-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, or
(13) -$C(=O)NH(-C_{1-4}\text{ alkyl})$;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. (original) The compound according to claim 5, wherein one of R^{2a} and R^{2b} is -H, and the other of R^{2a} and R^{2b} is as defined in claim 5;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. (original) The compound according to claim 6, wherein one of R^{2a} and R^{2b} is -H, and the other of R^{2a} and R^{2b} is:

(1) -H,
(2) $-SO_2CH_3$,
(3) $-SO_2CH_2CH_3$,
(4) $-S-CH_3$,
(5) $-S-CH_2CH_3$, or
(6) $-C(=O)NH(CH_3)$;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. (original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^3 is:

(1) -H,
(2) $-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, optionally substituted with one substituent which is $-O-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, -CN, $-N(R^aR^b)$, $-C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, $-OC(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)C(=O)CH_2N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)C(=O)-C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, $-C(=O)R^a$, $-CO_2R^a$, $-S(O)_nR^a$, $-SO_2N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)CO_2R^b$, $-N(R^a)-SO_2N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)-SO_2CH_2N(R^aR^b)$, or $-N(R^a)SO_2R^b$,

with the proviso that none of the following substituents is attached to the carbon in the $-C_{1-4}$ alkyl group that is attached to the ring nitrogen: $-O-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $-N(R^aR^b)$, $-OC(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)-C(=O)-CH_2N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)C(=O)-C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)CO_2R^b$, $-N(R^a)-SO_2N(R^aR^b)$, $-N(R^a)-SO_2-CH_2N(R^aR^b)$, or $-N(R^a)SO_2R^b$,

(3) $-C_{1-4}$ alkyl-R^k,
(4) $-C_{1-4}$ alkyl-$C(=O)-R^k$, or
(5) $-CH_{2-4}$ alkyl-$N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^k$, with the proviso that the substituent is not attached to the carbon in the $-C_{2-4}$ alkyl group that is attached to the ring nitrogen;

wherein R^k is:

(i) phenyl, which is optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each of which is independently halogen, $-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $-C_{1-4}$ haloalkyl, $-O-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, or $-O-C_{1-4}$ haloalkyl,

(ii) a 5- or 6-membered saturated heterocyclic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteratoms selected from N, O and S, wherein the saturated heterocyclic ring is

optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each of which is independently -C_{1-4} alkyl or oxo, or

(iii) a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, wherein the heteroaromatic ring is optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each of which is independently halogen, -C_{1-4} alkyl, or -O-C_{1-4} alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. (original) The compound according to claim 8, wherein R^3 is:

(1) -H,
(2) -C_{1-4} alkyl,
(3) -$(CH_2)_{2-3}$-O-C_{1-4} alkyl,
(4) -$(CH_2)_{2-3}$-N(-C_{1-4} alkyl)$_2$,
(5) -$(CH_2)_{1-3}$-C(=O)N(-C_{1-4} alkyl)$_2$,
(6) -$(CH_2)_{2-3}$-OC(=O)N(-C_{1-4} alkyl)$_2$,
(7) -$(CH_2)_{2-3}$-N(-C_{1-4} alkyl)C(=O)N(-C_{1-4} alkyl)$_2$,
(8) -$(CH_2)_{2-3}$-N(-C_{1-4} alkyl)C(=O)-CH_2N(-C_{1-4} alkyl)$_2$,
(9) -$(CH_2)_{2-3}$-N(-C_{1-4} alkyl)C(=O)-C(=O)N(-C_{1-4} alkyl)$_2$,
(10) -$(CH_2)_{1-3}$-CO_2-C_{1-4} alkyl,
(11) -$(CH_2)_{1-3}$-S(O)$_n$-C_{1-4} alkyl,
(12) -$(CH_2)_{1-3}$-SO_2N(-C_{1-4} alkyl)$_2$,
(13) -$(CH_2)_{2-3}$-N(-C_{1-4} alkyl)-CO_2-C_{1-4} alkyl,
(14) -$(CH_2)_{2-3}$-N(-C_{1-4} alkyl)-SO_2N(-C_{1-4} alkyl)$_2$,
(15) -$(CH_2)_{2-3}$-N(-C_{1-4} alkyl)-SO_2CH_2N(-C_{1-4} alkyl)$_2$,
(16) -$(CH_2)_{2-3}$-N(-C_{1-4} alkyl)-SO_2-C_{1-4} alkyl,
(17) -$(CH_2)_{1-3}$-R^k,
(18) -$(CH_2)_{1-3}$-C(=O)-R^k, or
(19) -$(CH_2)_{2-3}$-N(-C_{1-4} alkyl)-C(=O)-R^k;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. (original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein each of R^4 and R^5 is independently:

(1) -H,

(2) -C_{1-4} alkyl, optionally substituted with one substituent which is -CN, -$N(R^aR^b)$, -$C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, -$C(=O)R^a$, -CO_2R^a, -$S(O)_nR^a$, -$SO_2N(R^aR^b)$, or -$N(R^a)SO_2R^b$, or

(3) -C_{1-4} alkyl-R^m,

wherein each R^m is independently:

(i) phenyl, which is optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each of which is independently halogen, -C_{1-4} alkyl, -C_{1-4} haloalkyl, -O-C_{1-4} alkyl, or -O-C_{1-4} haloalkyl,

(ii) a 5- or 6-membered saturated heterocyclic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteratoms selected from N, O and S, wherein the saturated heterocyclic ring is optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each of which is independently -C_{1-4} alkyl or oxo, or

(iii) a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, wherein the heteroaromatic ring is optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each of which is independently halogen, -C_{1-4} alkyl, or -O-C_{1-4} alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

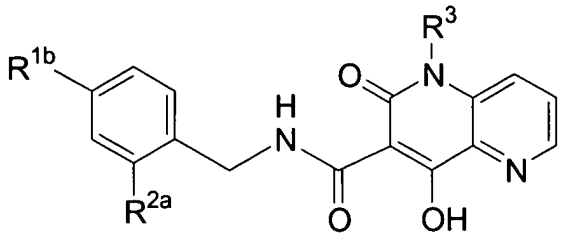
11. (original) The compound according to claim 10, wherein R^4 and R^5 are both -H;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. (original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein L is CH_2;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. (original) A compound of Formula (II):



(II),

wherein:

R^{1b} is -H, fluoro, chloro, bromo, -C_{1-4} alkyl, or -CF_3;

R^{2a} is:

(1) -H,
(2) -C_{1-4} alkyl,
(3) -CF_3,
(4) fluoro, chloro, or bromo,
(5) -SO_2-C_{1-4} alkyl,
(6) -S-C_{1-4} alkyl,
(7) -$SO_2N(R^aR^b)$,
(8) -$N(R^a)SO_2$-C_{1-4} alkyl, or
(9) -$C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$;

R^3 is:

(1) -H,
(2) -C_{1-4} alkyl, optionally substituted with one substituent which is -O-C_{1-4} alkyl, -CN, -$N(R^aR^b)$, -$C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, -$OC(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, -$N(R^a)C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, -$N(R^a)C(=O)CH_2N(R^aR^b)$, -$N(R^a)C(=O)$-$C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, -$C(=O)R^a$, -CO_2R^a, -$S(O)_nR^a$, -$SO_2N(R^aR^b)$, -$N(R^a)CO_2R^b$, -$N(R^a)$-$SO_2N(R^aR^b)$, -$N(R^a)$-$SO_2CH_2N(R^aR^b)$, or -$N(R^a)SO_2R^b$,

with the proviso that none of the following substituents is attached to the carbon in the -C_{1-4} alkyl group that is attached to the ring nitrogen: -O-C_{1-4} alkyl, -$N(R^aR^b)$, -$OC(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, -$N(R^a)C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, -$N(R^a)$-$C(=O)$-$CH_2N(R^aR^b)$, -$N(R^a)C(=O)$-$C(=O)N(R^aR^b)$, -$N(R^a)CO_2R^b$, -$N(R^a)$-$SO_2N(R^aR^b)$, -$N(R^a)$-SO_2-$CH_2N(R^aR^b)$, or -$N(R^a)SO_2R^b$,

(3) -C_{1-4} alkyl-R^k,

(4) -C_{1-4} alkyl-C(=O)-R^k, or

(5) -C_{2-4} alkyl-N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^k, with the proviso that the substituent is not attached to the carbon in the -C_{2-4} alkyl group that is attached to the ring nitrogen;

wherein R^k is:

(i) phenyl, which is optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each of which is independently halogen, -C_{1-4} alkyl, -C_{1-4} haloalkyl, -O-C_{1-4} alkyl, or -O-C_{1-4} haloalkyl,

(ii) a 5- or 6-membered saturated heterocyclic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteratoms selected from N, O and S, wherein the saturated heterocyclic ring is optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each of which is independently -C_{1-4} alkyl or oxo, or

(iii) a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing from 1 to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, wherein the heteroaromatic ring is optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each of which is independently halogen, -C_{1-4} alkyl, or -O-C_{1-4} alkyl;

each R^a and R^b is independently -H or -C_{1-4} alkyl; and

n is an integer equal to zero, 1 or 2;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

14. (original) The compound according to claim 13, wherein:

R^{1b} is fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, or ethyl;

R^{2a} is:

(1) -H,
(2) methyl or ethyl,
(3) fluoro,
(4) -SO_2-C_{1-4} alkyl,
(5) -S-C_{1-4} alkyl,
(6) -SO_2N(-C_{1-4} alkyl)$_2$,
(7) -NHSO_2-C_{1-4} alkyl,
(8) -N(-C_{1-4} alkyl)SO_2-C_{1-4} alkyl, or
(9) -C(=O)NH(-C_{1-4} alkyl);

R^3 is:

(1) -H,
(2) $-C_{1-4}$ alkyl,
(3) $-(CH_2)_{2-3}-O-C_{1-4}$ alkyl,
(4) $-(CH_2)_{2-3}-N(-C_{1-4}\text{ alkyl})_2$,
(5) $-(CH_2)_{1-3}-C(=O)N(-C_{1-4}\text{ alkyl})_2$,
(6) $-(CH_2)_{2-3}-N(-C_{1-4}\text{ alkyl})C(=O)N(-C_{1-4}\text{ alkyl})_2$,
(7) $-(CH_2)_{2-3}-N(-C_{1-4}\text{ alkyl})C(=O)-C(=O)N(-C_{1-4}\text{ alkyl})_2$,
(8) $-(CH_2)_{1-3}-CO_2-C_{1-4}$ alkyl,
(9) $-(CH_2)_{1-3}-S(O)_n-C_{1-4}$ alkyl,
(10) $-(CH_2)_{1-3}-SO_2N(-C_{1-4}\text{ alkyl})_2$,
(11) $-(CH_2)_{2-3}-N(-C_{1-4}\text{ alkyl})-SO_2N(-C_{1-4}\text{ alkyl})_2$,
(12) $-(CH_2)_{2-3}-N(-C_{1-4}\text{ alkyl})-SO_2-C_{1-4}$ alkyl,
(13) $-(CH_2)_{1-3}-R^k$,
(14) $-(CH_2)_{1-3}-C(=O)-R^k$, or
(15) $-(CH_2)_{2-3}-N(R^a)-C(=O)-R^k$;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. (original) The compound according to claim 14, wherein:

R^{1b} is fluoro;

R^{2a} is:

(1) -H,
(2) fluoro,
(3) $-SO_2-C_{1-4}$ alkyl,
(4) $-S-C_{1-4}$ alkyl,
(5) $-SO_2N(-C_{1-4}\text{ alkyl})_2$,
(6) $-NHSO_2-C_{1-4}$ alkyl,
(7) $-N(-C_{1-4}\text{ alkyl})SO_2-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, or
(8) $-C(=O)NH(-C_{1-4}\text{ alkyl})$;

R^3 is:

(1) -H,

(2) $-C_{1-4}$ alkyl,
(3) $-(CH_2)_{2-3}-O-C_{1-4}$ alkyl,
(4) $-(CH_2)_{2-3}-N(-C_{1-2}$ alkyl$)_2$,
(5) $-(CH_2)_{1-3}-C(=O)N(-C_{1-2}$ alkyl$)_2$,
(6) $-(CH_2)_{2-3}-N(-C_{1-2}$ alkyl$)C(=O)N(-C_{1-2}$ alkyl$)_2$,
(7) $-(CH_2)_{2-3}-N(-C_{1-2}$ alkyl$)C(=O)-C(=O)N(-C_{1-2}$ alkyl$)_2$,
(8) $-(CH_2)_{1-3}-S(O)_n-C_{1-2}$ alkyl,
(9) $-(CH_2)_{1-3}-SO_2N(-C_{1-2}$ alkyl$)_2$,
(10) $-(CH_2)_{2-3}-N(-C_{1-2}$ alkyl$)-SO_2N(-C_{1-2}$ alkyl$)_2$,
(11) $-(CH_2)_{2-3}-N(-C_{1-2}$ alkyl$)-SO_2-C_{1-2}$ alkyl,
(12) $-(CH_2)_{1-3}-R^k$, or
(13) $-(CH_2)_{1-3}-C(=O)-R^k$;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. (original) The compound according to claim 15, wherein R^k is:

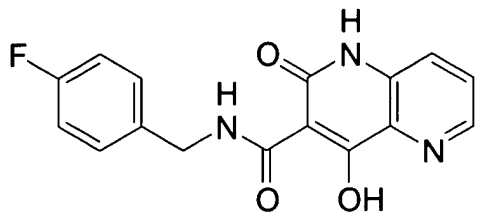
(i) phenyl which is optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each of which is independently fluoro, chloro, bromo, $-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $-CF_3$, $-O-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, or $-OCF_3$;

(ii) a saturated heterocyclic ring selected from the group consisting of piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, pyrazolidinyl, imidazolidinyl, oxazolidinyl, isoxazolidinyl, morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, thiazolidinyl, isothiazolidinyl, tetrahydrothienyl, tetrahydrofuryl, thiazinanyl, thiadiazinanyl, and dioxanyl; wherein the saturated heterocyclic ring is optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each of which is independently $-C_{1-4}$ alkyl or oxo; or

(iii) a heteroaromatic ring selected from the group consisting of pyridyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, thienyl, furanyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, oxazolyl, isooxazolyl, oxadiazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, and thiadiazolyl; wherein the heteroaromatic ring is optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents each of which is independently halogen, $-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, or $-O-C_{1-4}$ alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

17. (original) A compound selected from the group consisting of: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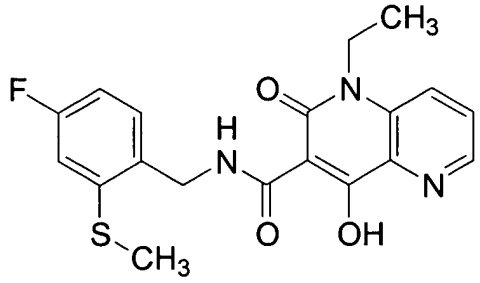
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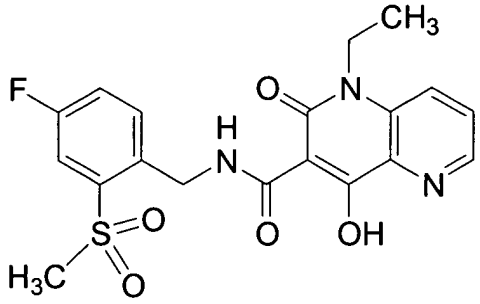
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OH
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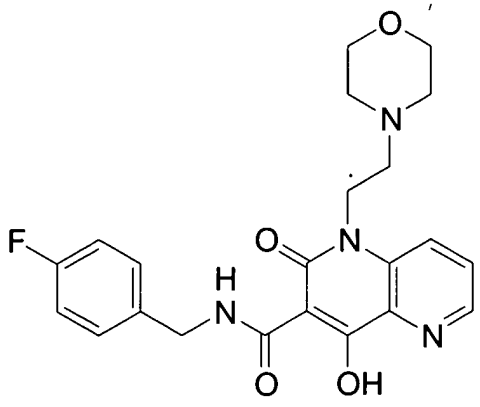
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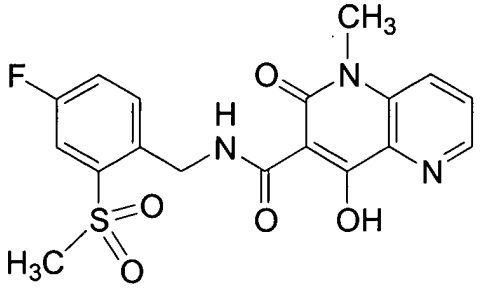
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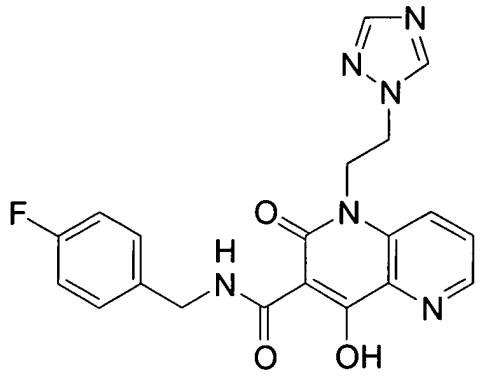
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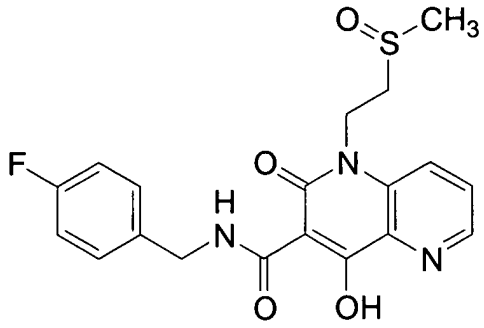
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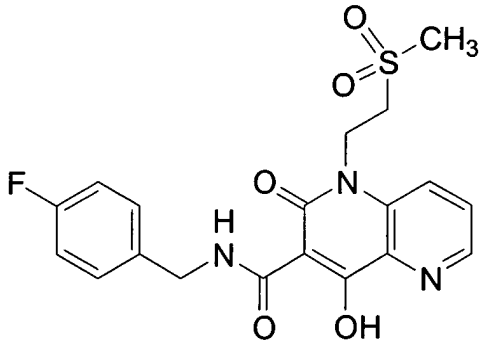
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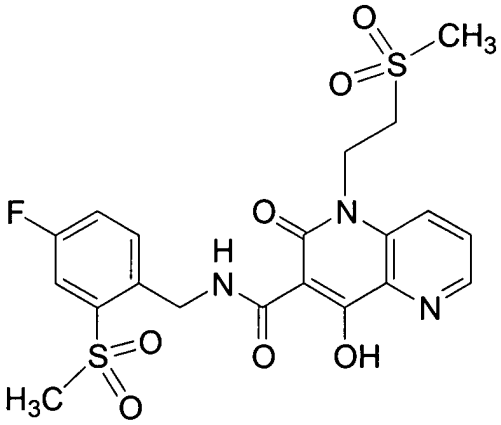
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H3C
O

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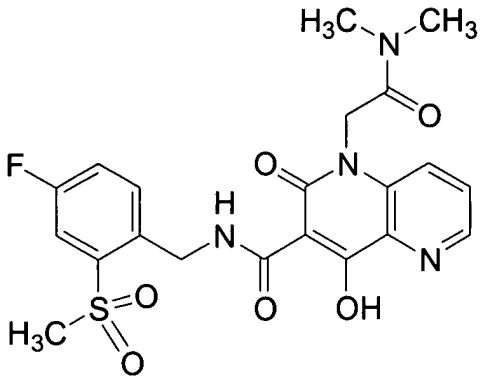

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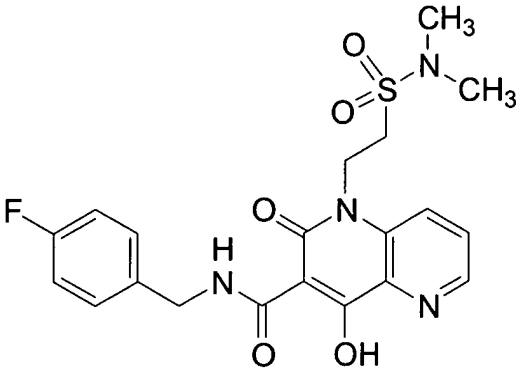

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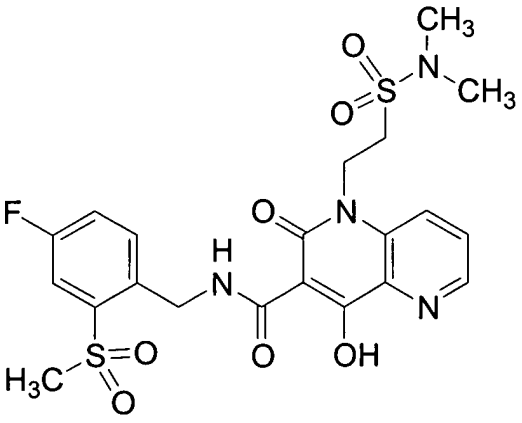

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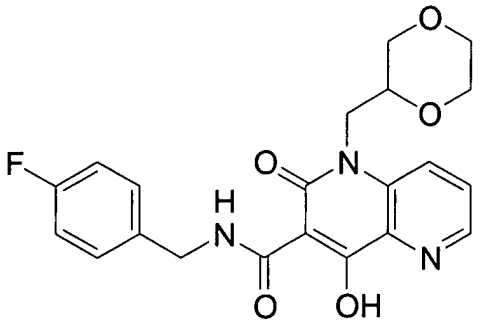

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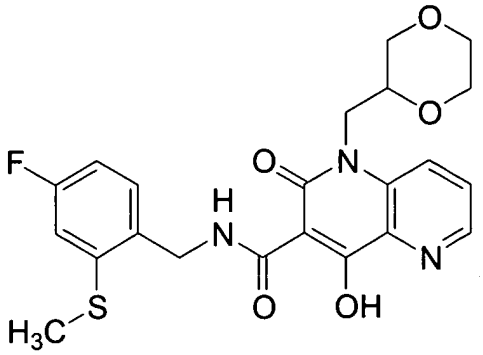
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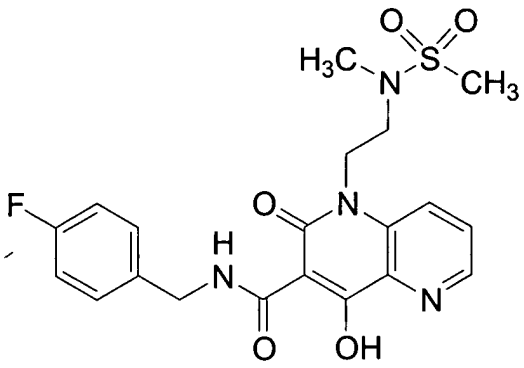
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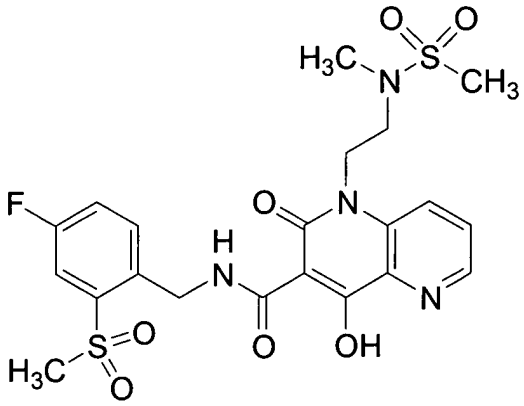
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CH3
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N
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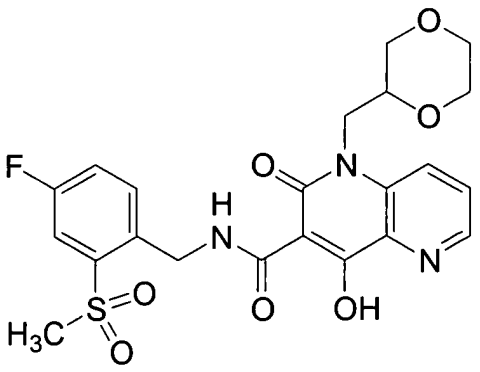
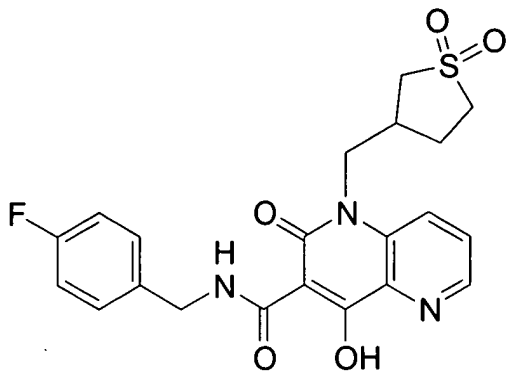
OH
S
O
H3C
O

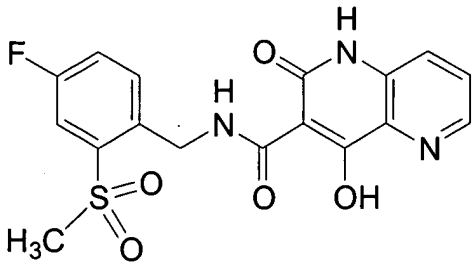
;


O
O
F
O
N
H
N
N
O
OH
S
O
H3C
O

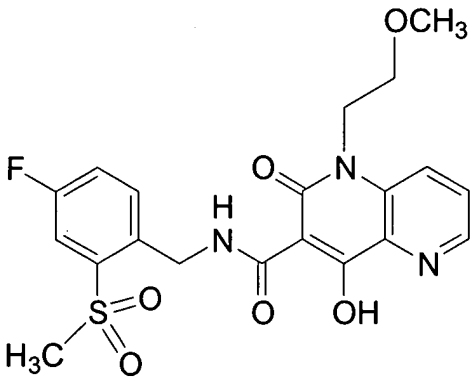
;


O
S
O
F
O
N
H
N
N
O
OH

;


H
F
O
N
H
N
N
S
O
O
H3C
O
OH

;


OCH3
F
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N
H
N
N
S
O
O
H3C
O
OH

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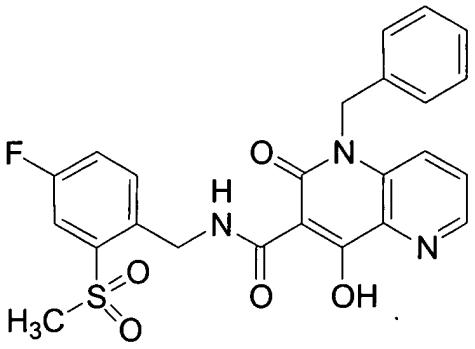
F
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H
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N
S
O
O
H3C
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OH

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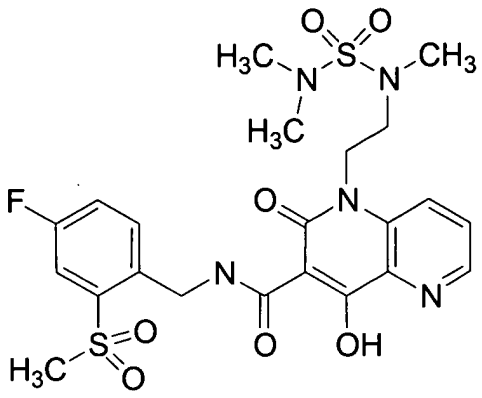

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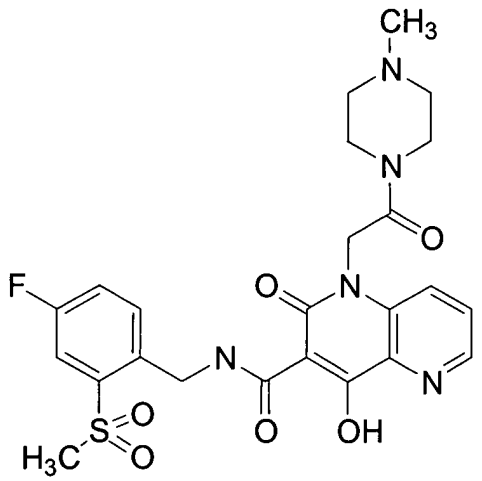

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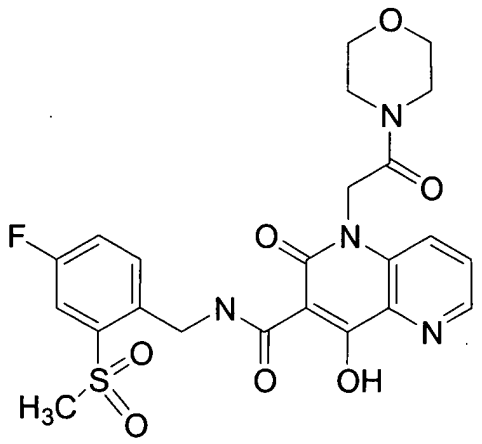

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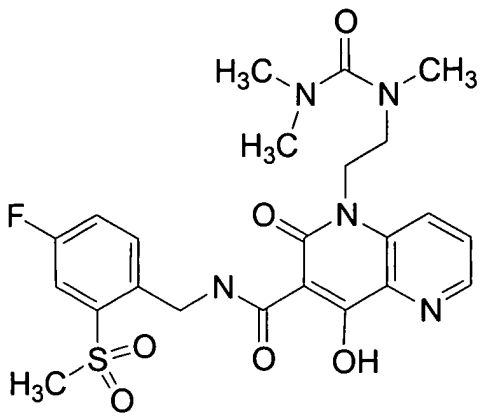

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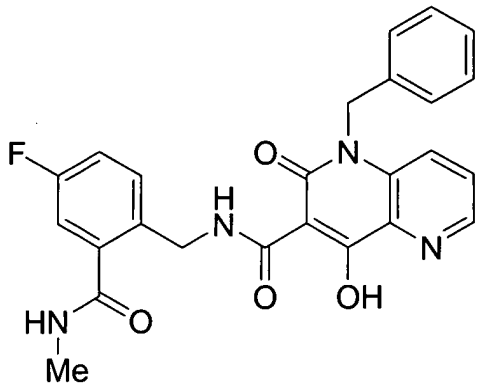

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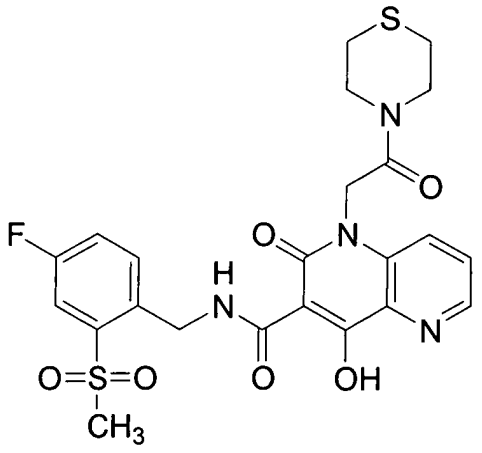

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and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

18. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to either claim 1 ~~or claim 13~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

19. (currently amended) A method of inhibiting HIV integrase in a subject in need thereof which comprises administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of the compound according to either claim 1 ~~or claim 13~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

20. (currently amended) A method for preventing or treating infection by HIV or for preventing, treating or delaying the onset of AIDS in a subject in need thereof which comprises administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of the compound according to either claim 1 ~~or claim 13~~, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

21-23. (canceled)